

**From:** Harrison Rigby  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 7:46pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

The settlement reached between the DOJ and Microsoft is, in the opinion of this citizen, an inadequate conclusion to the biggest anti-trust case of all time. Microsoft said that it disagreed with the verdict reached by Judge Jackson. This much, we expected. Microsoft then said that it disagreed with the Judge Jackson's interpretations of the applicable laws, and even with the existence of some of the laws themselves. The Federal Appeals Court, while rebuking some of Judge Jackson's behaviors, agreed with most of his findings and confirmed the validity of the laws involved.

The DOJ's decision to not pursue Judge Jackson's harsh penalties against Microsoft gives the company a free pass to continue its obviously illegal practices and predatory behavior and sets a precedent under which Microsoft and other monopolies may hide in the future.

Here's my suggestion regarding how to make the settlement more fair: Require that Microsoft open up all the API (application programming library) interfaces to, and within, the various versions of the Windows operating system. It's widely known that there are special calls within these libraries that are known only to Microsoft and that give Microsoft's product developers special advantages (Microsoft denies this claim). Given that DOJ's decision affirms Microsoft's monopoly position and will make the Microsoft Windows operating system a de facto standard for many years, we who must work in this software environment, and who must compete against Microsoft, wish to work on an even-playing field. It's not fair for those who control the common environment to control the rules, as well as the score, as fully as they do.

Please, open up the APIs so that our general economy, my small company's customers, and its stockholders may benefit from the improved products that will result when all developers are allowed access to the many currently hidden features within these libraries.

Thank you very much,

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